Grand Valley State University Student Senate

0008 Kirkhof Center

1 Campus Drive

Allendale, Michigan 49401

ADDRESSING STUDENT CONCERNS OVER CHANGES IN FEDERAL POLICY

As the voice of the student body at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), our responsibility is to listen to students and respond to issues impacting student life. As a body, we are monitoring student concerns regarding recent changes to federal policy, including executive orders and federal office mandates. These decisions are rapidly changing, and it is our responsibility to be diligent and intentional with our actions. The GVSU Student Senate is a nonpartisan body; our focus is on students' issues and concerns.

The GVSU Student Senate is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students, including those within marginalized communities. We recognize the challenges faced by students from diverse backgrounds and are dedicated to advocating for policies that embrace students' differences. Our efforts include engaging in open dialogue with marginalized groups to ensure their voices are heard, and their needs are met.

Student Senate works to ensure that all students feel respected, secure, and valued on campus. We promote educational initiatives, push for diverse representation in leadership roles, and advocate for enhanced support services. We remain committed to uplifting and protecting student organizations that provide community to various identity groups. By collaborating with students, faculty, and administration, we strive to address the experiences of marginalized students and foster a campus environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Since the latest Presidential administration took office, a large number of executive orders have been signed, though several have been blocked by federal judges. A lack of clarity has created immense confusion for different populations on campus. In these orders, the safety of undocumented students, international students, and their families has been questioned; students reliant on federal grants and scholarships face uncertainty for funding; and members of the LGBTQ+ community—especially trans and gender-nonconforming students—have been targeted by new policies regarding their rights.

The strength of our University during times of difficulty and uncertainty lies within the resource centers that serve the Grand Valley community. We encourage students feeling uneasy at this time to access the resources and services that they provide. Centers on campus, such as the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Center for Women and Gender Equity, LGBT Resource Center, University Counseling Center, and Department of Public Safety are here for students, and are a tool for students to use. Resources specific to the current climate are available here.

As your elected student representation on campus, it is crucial for us to listen to student voices and relay student thoughts to University administration. We have created a [form](#) that can be filled out anonymously and where students are encouraged to state concerns they would like relayed to campus stakeholders.

Regardless of federal policy changes, we remain committed to advocating for students and their diverse, ever-changing needs. To all students, remember, we are in your corner, and will continue to work with the University on your behalf. These are unprecedented times that call for us to come together as a community. We appreciate your voices on this subject and will continue to work with the University to ensure that every student feels safe and supported.

Respectfully,
The Grand Valley State University Student Senate

Quinten Proctor
Student Body President

Paris Lawson
Student Body Vice President

Evan Jackson
Student Senate Chief of Staff

Nancy Boyd
Student Senate Allocations Chair

Ty Vanlerberghe
Student Senate Public Relations Chair

Genna Wright
Student Senate Advocacy Chair

Alec Palumbo
Student Senate Policy Chair

Karen Theakston
Student Senate Events Chair